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SERIAL: BK2807063588
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H COUNTRY: Burma
SUBJ: BBC Burmese Beam on Post-Congress Developments

SOURCE: London BBC in Burmese to Burma 1345 GMT 26 Jul 88
(Tentative)

TEXT:

[From the "Current World Affairs" program]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted reporting on outcome of Burma Socialist Program Party Extraordinary Congress] Here is a dispatch received this morning from correspondent (Christopher Guinness) in Rangoon.

Although the congress rejected the proposal on holding a referendum on the introduction of the multi-party system, Brigadier General Aung Gyi told the BBC correspondent that U Ne Win is expected to ignore the decision of the congress.

According to Brig Gen Aung Gyi, those party members who were alarmed at the prospect of the one-party system being faded out voted against U Ne Win's proposal. According to Brig Gen Aung Gyi, U Ne Win is expected to ignore the congress proposal and use his influence in the forthcoming People's Assembly session to secure permission to hold the national referendum. He cited the provision on this in the Article 50 of the state constitution [which says "The People's Assembly may decide to hold a referendum where necessary" -- FBIS].

Meanwhile, there are reports of heated debate on the final day of the congress. When U Ne Win heard that his proposal on the holding of a national referendum had been rejected, he is reported to have given instructions to have the delegates called back into session. However, efforts to reconvene the meeting appear to have failed after there had been an angry exchange of words.

There are two schools of thought on the developments. One observer told the BBC correspondent that the Ne Win era is over. Other observers, however, believe that the referendum will take place and that U Ne Win will push through his political program for Burma. [Passage omitted]

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